

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 IGA-02 AID-20

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 SR-02 ORM-03

NEA-10 RSR-01 PA-03 USIA-12 /150 W
----- 044236

P R 251515 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3861

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0649

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BY, US

SUBJECT: REACTION TO NEWSOM/ NDABANIWE CONVERSATION OF JUNE 21.

REF STATE 122179

SUMMARY: LITTLE REACTION TO CONVERSATION. CURRENT BURUNDI
SITUATION REVIEWED .

1. EMBASSY HAS HAD NO FURTHER REACTIONS TO REF CONVERSATION
(BUJUMBURA 638). KASHIRAHOMWE AWARE OF CONVERSATION BUT
DID NOT MENTION POINTS MADE PER STATE REFTEL. NDABANIWE'S
REPORT HAS OBVIOUSLY NOT ATTRACTED MAJOR NOTICE AT
PRESIDENTIAL LEVELS AS YET.

2. AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN WAS REPORTED
IN FLASH- INFOR (GRB NEWS BULLETIN) DATED JUNE 22.
PASSAGE NOTES THAT FONMIN AND AMBASSADOR " REVIEWED
CURRENT RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. THEY THEN
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HAD TOUR D' HORIZON OF SITUATION CREATED BY CONTINUAL INVASIONS OF OUR COUNTRY BY REBEL ELEMENTS, RESULTING FROM NON- OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE CONVENTIONS BY CERTAIN COUNTRIES WHO GIVE SHELTER TO THESE REFUGEES." ITEM CONTINUES THAT " TWO PARTIES UNDERLINED FACT THAT ONE MUST ALWAYS DISASSOCIATE POSITIONS TAKEN BY NEWSPAPERS FROM THOSE OF GOVERNMENTS. CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE IN SPIRIT OF FRANKNESS AND UNDERSTANDING." THIS IS STANDARD MOFA REPORTING. SIMBANANIYE LEFT BUJUMBURA JUNE 23 FOR KINSHASA, WHERE IT IS UNDERSTOOD HE PLANS TO SPEND ONE WEEK.

3. EMBASSY HOPES FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS MAY BE USEFUL BACKGROUND FURTHER DEPARTMENT CONVERSATIONS WITH NDABANIWE:

A. OUR IMPRESSION, LIKE LEBRUN' S (BRUSSELS 3480), IS THAT NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON BURUNDI HAVE BEEN RUNNING BEHIND ACTUAL EVENTS(SEE BUJUMBURA 577). FROM OUR INFORMATION, SITUATION COULD BE SUMMED UP AS FOLLOWS: TUTSI REACTION TO MAY 11 AND 13 INVASIONS FROM TANZANIA AND RWANDA RESPECTIVELY WAS IMMEDIATE AND HARD. NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE AND EMBASSY STICKS BY PREVIOUS ESTIMATE THAT IT WAS SOMEWHERE IN THE THOUSANDS (BUT NOT IN 20,000 MAGNITUDE VATICAN USING-- ROME 5728 AND KIGALI 39 4). KILLINGS IN MOST AREAS STOPPED WITHIN TEN DAYS. KILLINGS LARGELY LOCALLY CONTROLLED, WITH EXCEPTION OPERATION IN BURURI TO " CLEAR INFECTED AREA," AND AFTER JUNE 1 PROBABLY LIMITED TO ISLOATED INCIDENTS AND BELATED REACTION IN SOME LOCALITIES OF INTERIOR. INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE BUT, SO FAR AS EMBASSY CAN ASCERTAIN, THINGS CONTINUE QUIET AT THIS TIME.

B. SITUATION NEVERTHELESS REMAINS TENSE IN ALL PARTS OF COUNTRY AS KNOWLEDGEABLE HUTUS PONDER TUTSI REACTION TO FUTURE INCURSIONS AND MEMBERS ESTABLISHMENT THINK EMOTIONALLY OF EVENTUAL " LAST STAND." LATTER IS PROBABLY IN PART SIMPLY TALK OF THE PRESENT FEAR- STRICKEN MOMENT, BUT ONE SENSES NEW DETERMINATION OF TUTSIS TO USE EVERY FORCE AT HAND AS THEY SEE NOOSE TIGHTENING.

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C. GOVERNMENT ITSELF REMAINS DIVIDED AS ALWAYS. PRESIDENT AND MORE MODERATE GROUP APPEAR WILLING SEEK MEANS CALMING SITUATION OTHERS PRESS FOR SOLE RELIANCE ON ARMS AND FORCE. ATTITUDE OF WEST, WHICH TUTSIS TEND TO VIEW AS ONE- SIDED AND UNFAIR, IS CAUSING SHIFTS IN ALLEGIANCES, WHICH NOW INCLUDE LIBYA AND EGYPT. ARMS HAVE ALREADY COME FROM THESE COUNTRIES, AND OTHER AID

IS IN WORKS. THIS MAY IN END BY MINIMAL BUT IT IS
AFFECTING EVEN SUBSTANTIAL PRO- WESTERN ELEMENTS IN
BURUNDI DESTABLISHMENT.

D. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT AT BEST FOR GRB TO ADMIT
ITS GRIEVOUS ERROR AND SEEK POLITICAL SOLUTION TO
BURUNDI' S PROBLEMS, AND PRESSURE TO DO SO IN ABSENCE
PUBLIC INDICATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN FOR TUTSIS'
OWN FATE IS UNLIKELY HAVE MUCH EFFECT. REACTION IN ALL
QUARTERS TO AMBASSADOR' S PRESSING FOR OPENNESS HAS THUS
FAR BEEN THAT MATTER ALREADY LAID BARE IN GRB WHITE PAPER.
MOST THAT IS ADMITTED IS THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME
EXCESSES BY PERSONS BEYOND PRESIDENT' S CONTROL. FEAR OF
POLITICALLY FATAL REACTION FROM RADICAL ELEMENTS IS
PROBABLY STRONG INHIBITING FACTOR. ONLY IF
THERE IS LIGHT AT END OF TUNNEL, I. E., OPENNESS OFFERS
SOME PROSPECT OF, AND IS NECESSARY TO, SOLUTION
PROTECTING TUTSIS' RIGHTS, DOES PROGRESS THIS REGARD
SEEMS POSSIBLE.

E. WHILE ADMISSION OF AN INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE
STILL REMAINS POSSIBILITY(EMBASSY CONTINUING PUT FORWARD),
OAU INTEREST AND GRB CONCURRENCE IN SATISFACTORY TERMS OF
REFERENCE CAN BE EXPECTED REQUIRE DIFFUCULT NEGOTIATIONS.
PRESS AIRING OF U. S. ROLE UNLIKELY BE HELPFUL EITHER GRB
OR OTHER AFRICANS THIS REGARD.

4. EMBASSY WILL EXPLORE RESULTS OF REF CONVERSATION
FURTHER AS OCCASION ARISES.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUJUMB00649
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730627/aaaajmaw.tel
Line Count: 150
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 122179
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Oct-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980223
Subject: REACTION TO NEWSOM/ NDABANIWE CONVERSATION OF JUNE 21.
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BY, US
To: AF
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ADDIS ABABA
BRUSSELS
DAR ES SALAAM
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

